

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095673

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES:VLV

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EUR/IB - MR. ROWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIR FARES

REF: MADRID 2754

1. SPANISH DESCRIPTION AND UNDERSTANDING OF AIR FARE

QUESTION IS SOMEWHAT INACCURATE.

2. CAB APPROVED IATA NORTH ATLANTIC FARE AGREEMENT, EXCEPT FOR THREE ITEMS, ONE OF WHICH WAS GROUP AFFINITY FARES INVOLVING IBERIAN PENINSULA. CAB ALLOWED LATTER FARES FOR ONLY 30 DAYS THROUGH APRIL 30. IATA SUBSEQUENTLY REACHED NEW AGREEMENTS ON FIRST TWO ITEMS, BUT NOT ON IBERIAN FARES. IBERIA HAS FILED PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION WITH CAB, WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE DENIED IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. AS SITUATION NOW STANDS, ASSUMING DENIAL OF IBERIA'S PETITION, IBERIA AND TAP (AS WELL AS PAN AM AND TWA) WILL NOT BE ABLE OFFER ANY GROUP AFFINITY FARE BETWEEN U.S. AND

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PAGE 02 STATE 095673

IBERIAN PENINSULA AS OF MAY 1, UNLESS NEW TARIFFS ARE

FILED AND ACCEPTED BY THEN. SITUATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY WITH SPANISH EMBASSY. BRIEFLY, IBERIA (AND TAP, IF IT WISHES) MAY FILE GROUP AFFINITY FARE AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN PROPOSED AND REQUEST APPROVAL ON SHORT-NOTICE BASIS.

CAB MAY BE WILLING APPROVE SUCH REQUEST. AT SAME TIME, IBERIA COULD FILE FARE AT LEVEL IT WANTS ON NORMAL 30-DAY BASIS. IF CAB PROPOSED DENY (WHICH PRESUMABLY IT WOULD), ARTICLE 10 OF AIRTRANSPORT AGREEMENT WOULD COME INTO PLAY, REQUIRING USG NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION TO GOS AND PROVIDING POSSIBILITY U.S.-SPANISH CONSULTATIONS. (U.S.-PORTUGAL AGREEMENT DOES NOT HAVE COMPARABLE PROVISION.)

4. AT OUR SUGGESTION, BARCIA AND IBERIA REP MAY CALL ON CAB STAFF TO DISCUSS WHAT FARE CAB MIGHT BE WILLING ACCEPT ON SHORT-NOTICE BASIS.

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